

Memo

To: Lobster Zone Council Members
From: Donna Dyer, License Eligibility Specialist
Date: February 1, 2008– Posted on Internet
Re: 2008 New Zone Entrants for Limited-Entry Lobster Zones Calculated

As required by Maine's limited entry law (12 M.R.S.A. §6448), the Commissioner of Marine Resources has determined the number of new zone entrants authorized for each of the limited-entry lobster zones. Of the seven lobster zones, six zones have adopted regulations to limit the number of new zone entrants. The number of new zone entrants authorized is based on a comparison of the number of licenses in that zone in 2006 and the number of people who did not renew their license in that zone in 2007. Exceptions to the limited-entry process, such as medical and military waivers, are discounted from the totals for the purposes of calculating the number of new zone entrants as required by the limited-entry law.

Each lobster limited-entry zone has established an exit ratio to determine how many licenses must be retired (not renewed) in order for a new zone entrant to be allowed into the zone. Following are the number of licenses awarded in 2007 for each limited-entry zone based on the exit ratio for that zone:

- Zone A:** 10 licenses awarded based on an exit ratio of one license awarded to a new entrant for every three licenses not renewed in the previous calendar year (1:3)
- Zone B:** 4 licenses awarded based on an exit ratio of one license awarded to a new entrant for every three licenses not renewed in the previous calendar year (1:3)
- Zone D:** 9 licenses awarded based on an exit ratio of one license awarded to a new entrant for every five licenses not renewed in the previous calendar year (1:5)
- Zone E:** 5 licenses awarded based on an exit ratio of one license awarded to a new entrant for every five licenses not renewed in the previous calendar year (1:5)
- Zone F:** 6 licenses awarded based on an exit ratio of one license awarded to a new entrant for every five licenses not renewed in the previous calendar year (1:5)
- Zone G:** 4 licenses awarded based on an exit ratio of one license awarded to a new entrant for every five licenses not renewed in the previous calendar year (1:5)

Certified letters have been sent to those individuals on the waiting list that are now authorized to purchase a 2008 license. These individuals have 30 days to buy their 2008 lobster and crab fishing license for that limited-entry zone or the next person on the waiting list is offered the slot.

Questions about the lobster licensing process should be addressed to License Eligibility Specialist, Department of Marine Resources, (207) 624-6549.